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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSING NEOVASCULARIZED TISSUES

(57) Abstract: A method for detecting neovascularized tissue includes placing a tissue in the path of a light beam, measuring a polarization shift of the light beam, and detecting neovascularized tissue if the measured polarization shift corresponds to a polarization shift of a neovascularized tissue. An apparatus for detecting neovascularized tissue includes a laser, a polarizer coupled to the laser, a tissue sample holder coupled to the polarizer, an analyzer coupled to the tissue sample holder, a detector coupled to the analyzer, and a data acquisition system coupled to the detector, the data acquisition system configured to measure a polarization shift of a light beam emitted by the laser and diagnose an ocular disease if the measured polarization shift corresponds to a polarization shift of a neovascularized tissue.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/01836

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 5/05
US CL : 600/476

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 600/476

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,303,709 A (DREHER et al.) 19 April 1994 (19.04.1994), entire document	1-44

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 August 2004 (23.08.2004)

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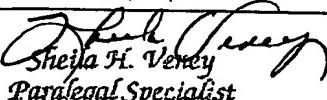
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